

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5125

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001

ROLE OF TOBACCO BOARD IN CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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- (a) the role of Tobacco Board in the promotion of cultivation of tobacco in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh; (
- (b) the quantum and value of manufactured and un-manufactured tobacco exported from each State particularly from Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001 and the targets fixed for 2001-2002; (
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the exports of tobacco; and (
- (d) the various welfare measures initiated by `Tobacco Board` for the welfare of tobacco farmers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) : The Tobacco Board promotes the cultivation of FCV tobacco in the country by regulating the production and curing of FCV tobacco on the basis of an assessment of the domestic and international demand for the commodity. The Board fixes the crop size each year in each of the tobacco-producing States, including Andhra Pradesh, registers the growers, curers and traders and arranges the auction of tobacco on its platforms. In addition, the Board helps the tobacco growers to improve yield and quality of FCV tobacco by rendering assistance in obtaining loans from banks, insurance coverage for the curing barns and arranging supply of inputs like high-yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. It also fixes a Minimum Guaranteed Price for the FCV tobacco grown in different soil regions each year in consultation with the traders & growers.

(b) : The quantum of manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco exported from India during 2000-2001 is 15023 tonnes and 99432 tonnes respectively. The value of these exports is Rs.210.06 crores and Rs. 648.74 crores respectively. The share of Andhra Pradesh in unmanufactured tobacco exports is 80% while that of Karnataka is 15%. The export target for tobacco for 2001-02 is in the process of finalization.

(c) : Government, through the Tobacco Board, is considering ways of improving the productivity and quality of FCV tobacco, including through timely supply of inputs like high quality seeds, fertilizers etc. to the farmers so as to increase India's share in global tobacco exports.

(d) : The Tobacco Board has initiated various welfare and developmental schemes for the benefit of farmers in the FCV tobacco-producing States, including Andhra Pradesh. It supplies important inputs like high quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation and spraying equipment, coal and briquettes to the farmers. It also advises and trains the tobacco growers on the use of improved varieties and farming practices so as to enhance productivity. Transfer of technology to the farmers is carried out through group meetings, training programmes, field visits, on farm demonstrations etc. It also assists the farmers in obtaining bank loans and extends financial assistance to those farmers whose crops / burns have been damaged due to natural calamities.